

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
CEA-01 AGRE-00 IO-14 /125 W
-----128490 070504Z /12

R 060739Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN
SUBJECT: JOINT AFRICAN POSITION FOR IMF/WORLD
BANK MEETING

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 3687, B) STATE 203590

SUMMARY: THIRTEEN AFRICAN GOVERNORS OF IMF/IBRD
MET IN ADDIS ABABA AUGUST 1-4 TO WORK ON JOINT
AFRICAN POSITION AT UPCOMING IMF/IBRD MEETING.
SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED IN OPENING
SESSION SPEECHES WERE TERMS AND CONDITIONS
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OF EXTERNAL CREDITS AND INTRODUCTION OF NON-
ECONOMIC CRITERIA IN CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS
BY WORLD BANK GROUP. PROJECTS FOR WHICH IBRD
FINANCING SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED WERE PAN-AFRICAN
TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM, MINERAL PROSPECTING,
FOOD PRODUCTION, AND CAMPAIGNS AGAINST CATTLE
DISEASE. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, OPENING SESSION
OF FIVE DAY MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA OF WORKING
GROUP OF AFRICAN GOVERNORS OF IMF/IBRD FEATURED
MILD CRITICISM OF THE BANK BY ETHIOPIAN
ASFAW DAMTE, PERMSEC OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF WORLD BANK FOR ETHIOPIA.
ASFAW OBSERVED THAT "THE INTRODUCTION OF NON-
ECONOMIC CRITERIA IN THE CONSIDERATION OF
PROJECTS BY THE WORLD BANK GROUP IS A DEVELOPMENT
WHICH CAUSES GREAT CONCERN TO ALL COUNTRIES."
HE ADDED THAT "THE WORLD BANK BOARD SHOULD NOT BE
CONVERTED INTO A POLITICAL PLATFORM," WHICH IS
"CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE ARTICLES OF
AGREEMENT AND THREATEN TO CHANGE THE CHARACTER
OF THE BANK." SPECIFICALLY RAISING THE HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE, ASFAW SAID "THE ATTEMPT BY SOME MEMBER
COUNTRIES TO HAVE BLOCKED IN THE NAME OF WHAT THEY
CALL 'HUMAN RIGHTS' THE APPROVAL OF PROJECTS WHICH
ARE INTENDED TO BENEFIT THE BROAD MASSES IS
INCOMPREHENSIBLE. IT IS EITHER A DELIBERATE CONTRADICTION
OR CYNICISM OF A HIGH ORDER."

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9653
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
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"WE MUST CONTINUE TO PROTEST AGAINST THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT," HE ADDED, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT "THESE AND OTHER ISSUES WILL BE DELIBERATED UPON AND THAT COMMON STANDS WILL BE AGREED DURING THIS MEETING."

2. CONTINUING HIS CRITICISM OF THE WORLD BANK POLICIES, ASFAW SAID "HOWEVER MINIMAL THE MAGNITUDE OF....LOANS AND CREDITS IN COMPARISON TO THE ACTUAL NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IT HAS PROVED TOO HEAVY A BURDEN ON THE WEAK ECONOMIES OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPING NATIONS, PRIMARILY DUE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE." EVEN WHEN COMMENDING THE WORLD BANK FOR ITS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO CHANNEL RESOURCES TO AFRICA THROUGH THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, HE JIBED, "WE HOPE THAT THE RESOURCES WILL BE SUCH THAT IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

3. ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION WAS MFUNI TSHIYAMANYANU, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIO ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT OF THE OAU. HE OUTLINED THE PROBLEMS FACING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, NOTING PARTICULARLY THAT OF "SETTLING CREDITS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS". HE CALLED FOR SPECIFIC IBRD ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT NATURAL CALAMITIES AND TO PROMOTE THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, MINERAL PROSPECTING, FOOD PRODUCTION, AND THE ERADICATION OF SERIOUS CATTLE DISEASES.

4. DAVID GANAO, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECA WAS THE THIRD PRINCIPLE SPEAKER AT THE OPENING SESSION. HE REVIEWED THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICAN AND STATED THAT AFRICA WOULD HAVE TO EXERT IMMENSE EFFORTS IN THE CURRENT DECADE TO AVOID GRAVE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES IN THE 1980S.

5. COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING WERE ETHIOPIA, LESOTHO, GUINEA BISSAU, LIBERIA, EGYPT, MADAGASCAR, CONGO, CAMEROON, BURUNDI,

UPPER VOLTA, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, AND SIERRA LEONE. ECA,
OAU AND THE IMF ALSO HAD REPRESENTATIVES IN
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ATTENDANCE.

COMMENT: ETHIOPIA'S PITCH FOR A UNITED AFRICAN
STAND FOR MORE IMF/IBRD FINANCING ON MORE
FAVORABLE TERMS, AND FOR KEEPING POLITICAL ISSUES
OUT OF PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS, IS LIKELY TO FIND
CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AMONG OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
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